

QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Grasonville, Queen Anne's County

Constructed 1912

Privately owned

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Bryan's Chapel is a church complex located on the south side of Main Street in Grasonville, Queen Anne's County. The complex consists of a 1912 church, a ca. 1911 church hall, a cemetery begun in 1896, and a 1982 parsonage. Although the current resources date to the late-19th and 20th centuries, Bryan's Chapel has continuously occupied this site since ca. 1800. The front-gable, wood-frame church stands at the northeast corner of the site and features a tower at its northeast corner. The 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame, front-gable church hall stands east of the church. The parsonage stands east of the church hall. The cemetery, arranged on a grid with gravesites grouped by families, lies in a wooded area south of the church and church hall.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bryan's Chapel, founded in 1800, is a historically African American congregation in the United Methodist Church tradition. The charter members are believed to have been free and indentured African Americans, however records of them do not survive. African American churches were critical institutions within their communities in that they provided safe places for African Americans to gather.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-573

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Bryan's Chapel (preferred)
other Bryan United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 5608 Main Street not for publication
city, town Grasonville vicinity
county Queen Anne's

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bryan United Methodist Church
street and number 5608 Main Street telephone (410) 827-8440
city, town Grasonville state MD zip code 21638

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Circuit Court liber BHT 7 folio 80
city, town Centreville tax map 58 tax parcel 564 tax ID number 05-022479

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	0
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	3
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-573

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Bryan's Chapel is a church complex located on the south side of Main Street in Grasonville, Queen Anne's County. The complex consists of a 1912 church, a ca. 1911 church hall, a cemetery begun in 1896, and a 1982 parsonage. Although the current resources date to the late-19th and 20th centuries, Bryan's Chapel has continuously occupied this site since ca. 1800. The front-gable, wood-frame church stands at the northeast corner of the site and features a tower at its northeast corner. The 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame, front-gable church hall stands east of the church. The parsonage stands east of the church hall. The cemetery, arranged on a grid with gravesites grouped by families, lies in a wooded area south of the church and church hall.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Bryan's Chapel is a church complex located on the south side of Main Street in Grasonville, Queen Anne's County. The complex consists of a 1912 church, a ca. 1911 church hall, a cemetery begun in 1896, and a 1982 parsonage. Although the current resources date to the late-19th and 20th centuries, Bryan's Chapel has continuously occupied this site since ca. 1800. The 2.5-acre site is flat and is bounded by Main Street on the north, a residential property on the west, and wooded areas on the south and east. The church, church hall, and parsonage stand along Main Street, while the cemetery lies to the rear (south).

The church, constructed in 1912, stands at the northeast corner of the site. The church is a front gable, wood-frame building with a tower on the northeast corner and additions on the south and west. The church has a brick foundation under the 1912 building and concrete block foundations under the additions. It is covered in aluminum siding with cornerboards and has an asphalt shingle roof with open eaves and exposed rafter tails. There are interior brick chimneys in the center of the east and west walls. The church has 4/4, double-hung, pointed-arch wood windows with colored glass panes and plain surrounds. There are diamond shaped windows in the north gable and on the tower. The tower has a hipped roof with a boxed cornice and louvered openings in the belfry. Main entrance to the church is on the east side of the tower and consists of double paneled doors that lead to a small vestibule. A second set of double paneled doors leads to the sanctuary. The sanctuary has a center aisle plan and oak pews. The space is finished with a tongue and groove floor, deep, flat baseboards, beadboard wainscoting, plaster upper walls, and a dropped ceiling. The stovepipe holes on the chimney stacks remain visible. The chancel is a 1976 addition. The chancel is finished in a manner similar to the 1912 sanctuary. A ca. 1960 addition containing restrooms extends east of the sanctuary. The church is in good condition.

The church hall stands east of the church. The church hall was moved to the site ca. 1911. It is a 2-story, 3-bay, wood-frame, front-gable building. It has a brick pier foundation, aluminum siding with cornerboards, and an asphalt-shingle roof with a boxed cornice and vergeboards. There are interior brick chimneys on the east and west walls. The main entry is in the center bay of the front (north) elevation and consists of a recent flush door with a poured concrete stoop and an aluminum awning. The windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash. A 1-story shed kitchen addition extends to the rear (south). The interior of the first floor is a single open space with a tile floor, ca. 1970s paneled walls, a beadboard ceiling, and a row of chamfered posts down the center. The second floor was not accessible due to structural instability. The church hall is deteriorated and is scheduled for demolition.

The parsonage stands east of the church hall. Constructed in 1982, the parsonage is a 2-story, 5-bay, wood-frame residence.

The cemetery lies in a lightly wooded area south of the church and church hall. The cemetery was begun in 1896; markers with earlier dates indicate graves that were moved from other sites. The cemetery is laid out on a grid, and gravesites are grouped by family. New and old markers are evenly distributed throughout the cemetery. The markers all appear to be standard and machine made; no hand carved markers were evident. There are a few outlying gravesites, including those for Ella Heath (1870-1938) in the yard between the church and hall, Julia Demby (date illegible) in an iron fence enclosure immediately south of the church, and George H. Hard (no date) in the yard west of the church. Another notable marker is for Charles Thomas Hazelton (1832-1886). His marker identifies him as Corporal in Company O, 19th Regiment, U.S. Old Infantry.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-573

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1800 (founding), 1912 (construction of current church) **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates 1911, 1912, 1982

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bryan's Chapel, founded ca. 1800, is a historically African American congregation in the United Methodist Church tradition. The charter members are believed to have been free and indentured African Americans, however records of them do not survive. African American churches were critical institutions within their communities in that they provided safe places for African Americans to gather.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Bryan's Chapel, founded ca. 1800, is a historically African American congregation in the United Methodist Church tradition.¹ The charter members are believed to have been free and indentured African Americans, however records of them do not survive. The Bryan family donated the land, and the original church was a small dwelling that was moved to the site. The congregation acquired additional land for the cemetery in 1896 and 1927.² The church hall was moved to the site ca. 1911. It contained a fellowship hall on the first floor and a meeting room for the Order of the Galilean Fishermen on the 2nd.³ The current sanctuary was constructed on the site of the original building in 1912. The parsonage dates to 1982.⁴

African American churches were critical institutions within their communities in that they provided safe places for African Americans to gather. Because African Americans could not participate in mainstream politics, enter many public buildings, or hold public assemblies outside of church, their churches doubled as civic centers. Churches provided opportunities for activism, leadership, and personal advancement. In addition, churches enforced standards of public behavior (forbidding, for example, drinking, dancing or fighting) and provided a location for picnics, lectures, and other social activities.⁵

¹ Some believe the church to be the second oldest continuously operating African American church in the United Methodist tradition (African Zoar Church in Philadelphia being the oldest). However, histories of the United Methodist Church, even those focusing on African American traditions, make no mention of Bryan's Chapel. More research is needed to verify this claim.

² Markers with dates earlier than 1896 were moved there from other sites.

³ The Grand United Order of Galilean Fishermen was founded in Baltimore in 1856. It was a Methodist African American fraternal order that offered life insurance and assistance with medical costs. It also operated a bank in Hampton, Virginia and a printing press. It founded schools for African American children, including the Galilean Fisherman free School in Annapolis. (www.wvculture.org/agency/press/endangered2005 and Skocpol, Theda and Jennifer Lynn Oscar. *Organization Despite Adversity: The Origins and Development of African American Fraternal Associations*. *Social Science History* 28:3 (Fall 2004), 367-437.)

⁴ Church history is from conversation between Julie Darsie and Alma Lewis, Trustee of Bryan U. M. Church, January 6, 2006. Most of the congregation's records have been lost.

⁵ Betty Bird, Betty Bird & Associates LLC. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for African-American Historic Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-573

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.52 acres
Acreage of historical setting 2.52 acres
Quadrangle name Queenstown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for Bryan's Chapel is identical to the boundary for Queen Anne's County Tax Map 58, Parcel 564. The boundary encompasses 2.52 acres and includes the church, church hall, parsonage, and cemetery. This constitutes all property historically owned by Bryan's Chapel.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates, LLC	date	January 2006
street & number	2607 24 th St., NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, District of Columbia	state	N/A

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-573

Bryan's Chapel
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conversation between Julie Darsie and Alma Lewis, Trustee of Bryan U. M. Church, January 6, 2006.

McClain, William B. *Black People in the Methodist Church: Wither Thou Goest?* Cambridge, MA: Schenkman, 1984.

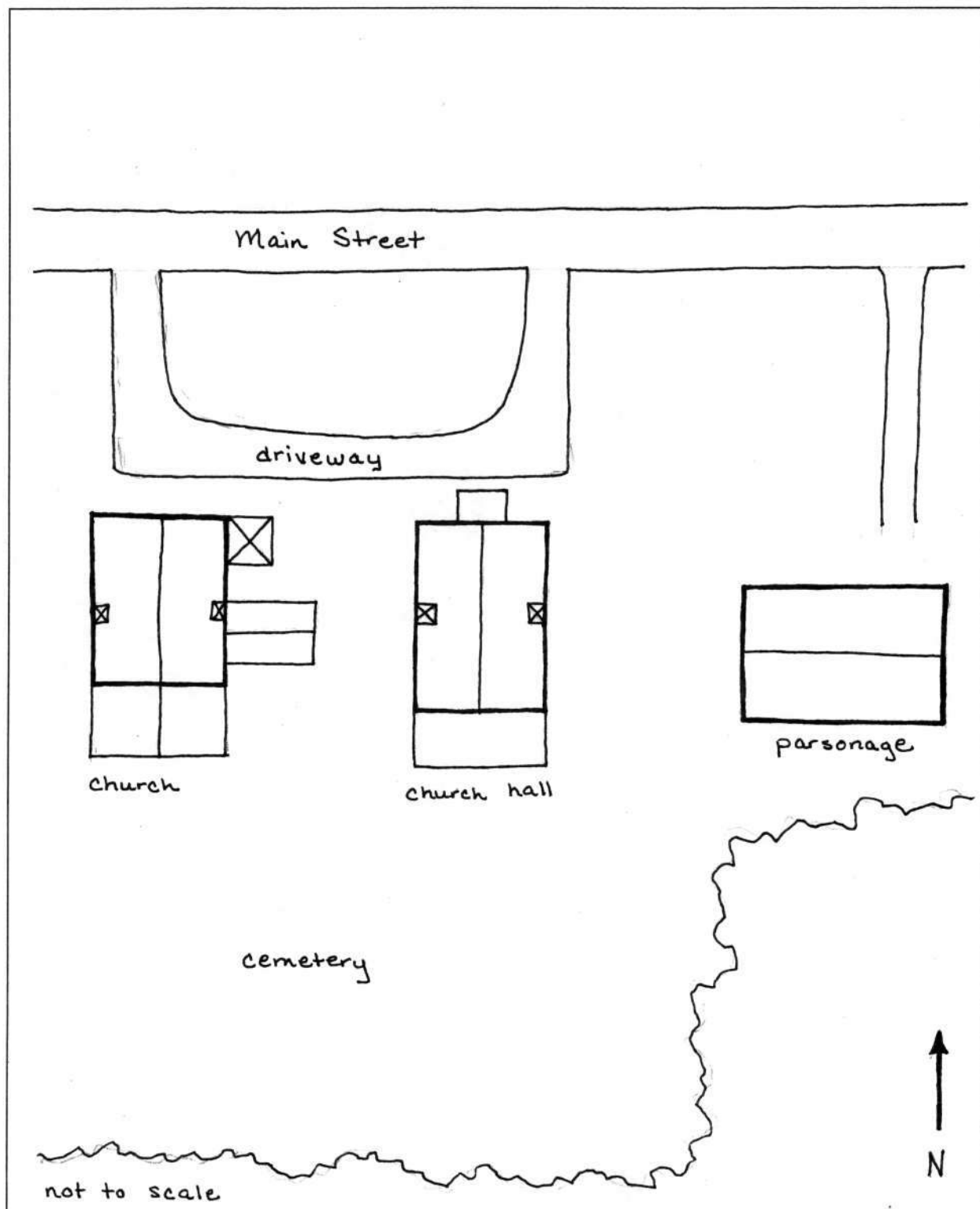
Other Historic Sites & Landmarks. Historic Sites Consortium of Queen Anne's County. www.historicqac.org.

Skocpol, Theda and Jennifer Lynn Oscar. Organization Despite Adversity: The Origins and Development of African American Fraternal Associations. *Social Science History* 28:3 (Fall 2004), 367-437.

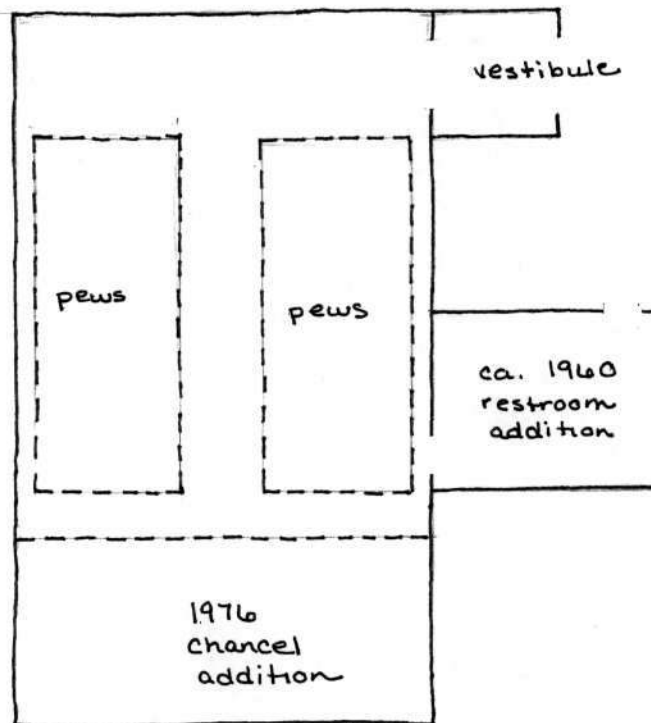
West Virginia Division of Culture and History announces list of endangered sites. www.wvculture.org/agency/press/endangered2005.

Williams, William Henry. *The Garden of American Methodism: The Delmarva Peninsula, 1769-1820*. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1984.

Zoar United Methodist Church. www.gcqh.org/Heritage_Landmarks/Zoar.



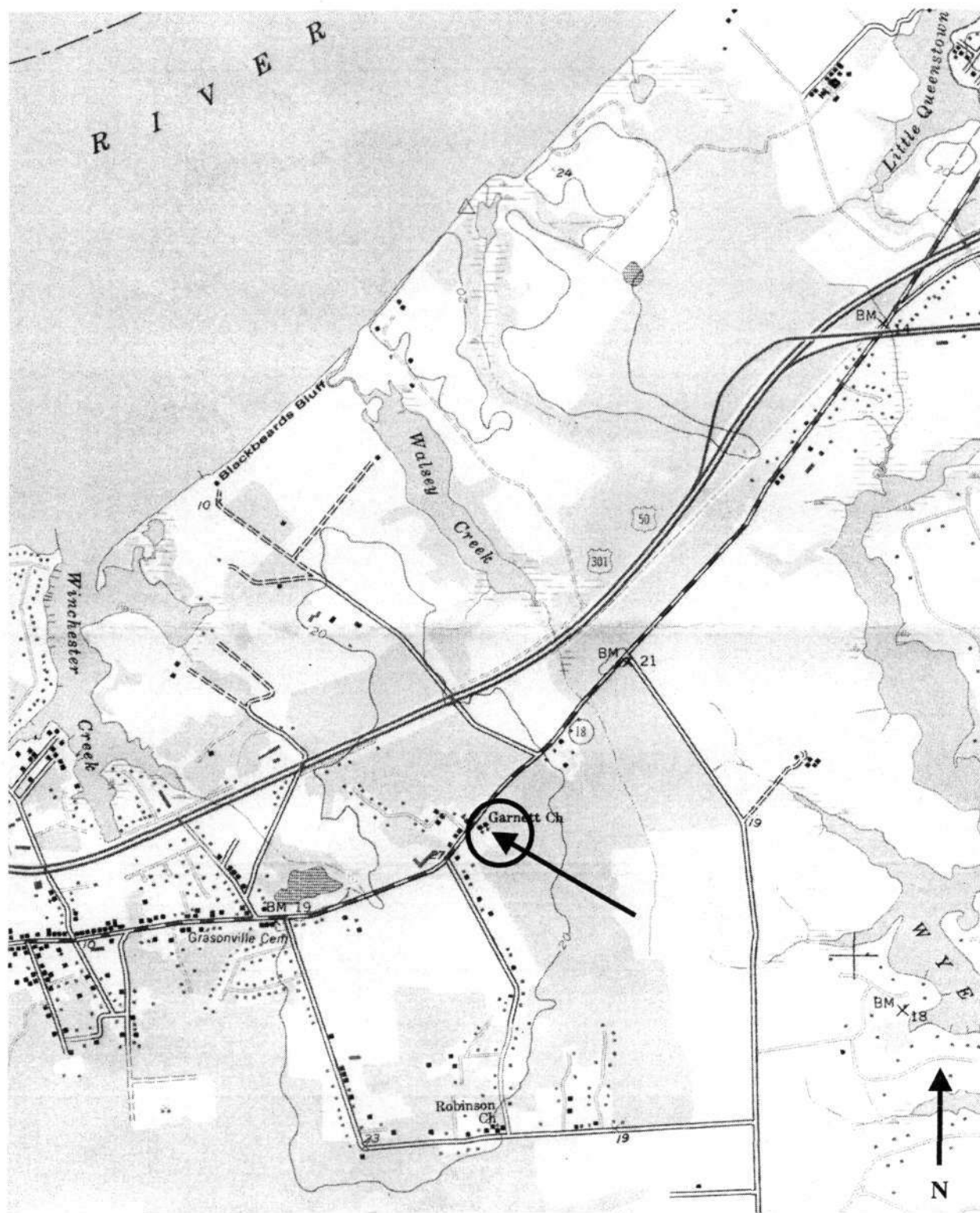
Site Plan
QA-573
Bryan's Chapel
Grasonville, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



not to scale



Floor Plan
QA-573
Bryan's Chapel
Grasonville, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



QA-573
Bryan's Chapel
Grasonville, Queen Anne's County
Queenstown, Maryland Quadrangle (1:24,000)



DA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD 5440

View to south from Main Street showing church on
right and hall on left.

lot 20

2006-11-11 11:47 AM



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to SW showing north and east elevations of church

2 of 20

< 009 11 + 03 111111 2006



QA 573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

John Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to south showing north elevation of church.

3 of 20

2024 11 03 HPNIN- 7058



QA-513

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to east showing west elevation of church.

4 of 20

2052 41 + 04 HFMH 2053



4A 573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Letic Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to north showing south elevation of church

5 of 20



GA-573

Zigan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to NW showing east elevation of church

Lot 20

< 055 11 102 MFNNH — 7053



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

170 SHPO

View to south toward chancel within church

7 of 20

> 005 11 +05 MFNMF- 7053



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to north toward rear of church interior

8 of 20

> 003 11 +05 NFMH- 2003



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MLD SHPO

View to south showing north elevation of church hall.

9 of 20

> 843 11 +05 NPHH-- 7853



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to SE showing north and west elevations of
church hall.

10 of 20

8082 --MINIIN 90+ 11 518< >



QA 513

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to north showing south elevation of church hall.
11 of 20

< 016 11 +01 MFNHH - 7050



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to west showing east elevation of church hall,
12 of 20



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to south showing first floor interior of
church hall

13 of 20

2006 11 06 11:00 AM -- 2053



QA-S13

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julia Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

View to SE showing church hall on right and
parsonage on left.

14 of 20

1902 - 11111111 50+ 11 100< >



QA-513

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MLD SHPO

View to south showing cemetery

15 of 20

> 890 11 +05 MFMH -- 2053



QA-573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

WLD SHPO

View to north showing cemetery

16 of 20

> 021 11 405 MFNNH -- 7853



QA-513

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Dancie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MO 9400

Gravesite of Ella Heath

17 of 20

2057 11 +05 HENNI - 2053



QA 573

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

ML SHPO

Gravesite of Julia Demby

18 of 20

8502 — 111111 50+ 11 928< >



QA 513

Bryan's Chapel

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD SHPO

Gravesites of Charles Thomas Hazelden and Mahalia's
Boulden

19 of 20



GEORGE
HARD

DELAWARE

QA-573

Bryant's Chapel

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

January 2006

MD 5440

Gravesite of George H. Hard

20 of 20

2006-01-06 11:06 AM 11 990< >